



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

①

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/033,328

11/02/2001

Darrin M. Patek

006979-0010

9602

33356

7590

10/23/2006

SoCAL IP LAW GROUP LLP
310 N. WESTLAKE BLVD. STE 120
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362

EXAMINER

STRANGE, AARON N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/033,328

Applicant(s)

PATEK ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron Strange

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner would like to note that the present application has been reassigned to a new Examiner.

Response to Arguments

2. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 7/17/06, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-7,14,16,18,31 and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chin et al. (US 5,617,421).

5. With regard to claim 1, Chin discloses a method for sending a data item from a source to selected destinations of a plurality of destinations in a switching network, said method comprising:

examining said data item to determine a routing identifier (source address) for said data item (at least Col 18, Lines 1-12);

using said routing identifier as an index, accessing a data structure (Table 4) comprising routing control values for said plurality of destinations (at least Col 18, Lines 10-12); and

concurrently transferring said data item from said source to said selected destinations based on said routing control values (at least Col 18, Lines 20-22).

6. With regard to claim 2, Chin further discloses that said data structure comprises a table (Table 4).

7. With regard to claim 3, Chin further discloses that said table comprises predetermined routing information (port masks)(Table 4).

Art Unit: 2153

8. With regard to claim 4, Chin further discloses that said data item comprises a portion of a frame (at least Col 18, Lines 20-22).

9. With regard to claim 5, Chin further discloses that said routing control values is part of a mask (Port of exit mask)(Table 4).

10. With regard to claim 6, Chin further discloses that said source comprises an input queue (queue at port of entry)(at least Col 18, Lines 1-3).

11. With regard to claim 7, Chin further discloses that said switching network is part of a router (data is forwarded to appropriate ports in the switch)(a least Col 18, Lines 1-22).

12. Claims 14 and 25 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1, since they recite substantially identical subject matter. Any differences between the claims do not result in patentably distinct claims and all of the limitations are taught by the above cited art.

13. With regard to claim 16, Chin further discloses that said frame has a frame format comprising a type (at least Col 6, Lines 42-53), a destination ID (at least Col 18, Lines 1-3), and data (at least Col 6, Lines 42-53) (Ethernet frames contain all of these fields).

14. With regard to claim 18, Chin further discloses that said frame has a frame format comprising a type (at least Col 6, Lines 42-53), a route (destination address)(at least Col 18, Lines 1-3), and data (at least Col 6, Lines 42-53):

15. With regard to claim 21, Chin further discloses that said memory for storing said mask includes a lockable row (it is well-known that table entries may be set as read-only)(Table 4 and Col 12, Lines 28-31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 8-13,15 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin et al. (US 5,617,421) in view of Nolan (US 6,661,790).

18. With regard to claim 8, while the system disclosed by Chin shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above with regard to claim 1), it fails to disclose transferring the frame by reference to the output queues.

Nolan discloses a similar system for multicasting data in a network. Nolan

Art Unit: 2153

discloses that loading and unloading of transmit and receive queues by reference through the use of pointers is old and well known (at least Col 3, lines 22-27).

Transferring data by reference is notoriously well known in the networking arts and allows data to be forwarded without being copied multiple times and reduces the time needed to transmit the data.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load/unload the transmit and receive queues by using pointers as references to the data to be transmitted, since it reduces the time needed to forward data by reducing the amount of times it must be copied.

19. With regard to claim 9, Chin further discloses copying a word associated with said frame to selected output queues corresponding to said selected output queue controllers (at least Col 18, Lines 20-22).

20. With regard to claim 10, Chin further discloses that said data structure comprises a table, said table comprising said mask (Table 4).

21. With regard to claim 11, Chin further discloses that said destination identifier is an index into said table for selecting said mask (at least Table 4 and Col 18, Lines 10-12).

Art Unit: 2153

22. With regard to claim 12, Nolan further discloses that said frame is stored in shared memory and is located by reference to said frame (at least Col 3, Lines 22-27).

23. With regard to claim 13, Nolan further discloses that said reference to said frame includes a pointer to said frame (at least Col 3, Lines 22-27).

24. Claims 15 and 22 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 8, since they recite substantially identical subject matter. Any differences between the claims do not result in patentably distinct claims and all of the limitations are taught by the above cited art.

25. With regard to claim 23, Chin further discloses that transferring said frame to a plurality of selected output ports happens in parallel (at least Col 18, Lines 20-22).

26. With regard to claim 24, Chin further discloses that said control unit comprises a lockable cache memory for storing a mask, said mask used in selecting said plurality of selected output ports (it is well-known that table entries may be set as read-only)(Table 4 and Col 12, Lines 28-31).

27. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin et al. (US 6,661,790) in view of RFC 1349.

Art Unit: 2153

28. With regard to claim 17, while the system disclosed by Chin shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), including that said frame has a frame format comprising a type (at least Col 6, Lines 42-53) and a route (destination address)(at least Col 18, Lines 1-3), it fails to disclose that the frame comprises user defined control information.

RFC 1349 teaches including user defined control information in a packet header (at least Pages 5-6). This allows the user to specify control information that routers may use to handle the packet. This would have been an advantageous addition to the system disclosed by Chin, and would have been present whenever IP packets were being routed, since it allows the user to have some control over the routing process, by requesting that the routers minimize delay or cost, maximize throughput or reliability, or specify normal service. This would be especially useful in assisting the routers in their intelligent path selection (Chin, Col 18, Lines 46-60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use user defined control information to specify how the router should handle particular packets.

29. Claims 19 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chin et al. (US 6,661,790) in view of Flanders et al. (US 6,172,980).

Art Unit: 2153

30. With regard to claims 19 and 20, while the system disclosed by Chin shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed above), it fails to disclose that said route comprises a multicast flow ID of a unicast destination port ID.

Flanders teaches providing a multicast flow ID and/or a unicast destination port ID in a packet (at least Col 6, Line 49 to Col 7, Line 4). Including these fields allows appropriate packets associated with flows to be looked up in a flow cache table to be assigned QoS parameters, ensuring that the packets are properly routed to maintain the QoS for the entire flow.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use multicast flow ID and/or unicast destination port ID's to associate appropriate packets with flows to maintain QoS if the packet is associated with a flow.

Conclusion

31. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Strange whose telephone number is 571-272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2153

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AS

10/16/06



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100